



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRODUCE IMPORTERS SENTENCED FOR FEDERAL VIOLATIONS AND MUST FORFEIT OVER \$2 MILLION IN U.S. CURRENCY

TUCSON, Ariz. –The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on January 10, 2005, Robert A. Shipley, DOB 7/16/33 of Nogales, Ariz., and Lee Alan Shipley, DOB 6/24/58, of Altamirano, Guerrero, Mexico, were each sentenced to four years probation by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury in Tucson, Ariz.

In August 2004, Robert A. Shipley and Lee Alan Shipley pleaded guilty in federal court to Conspiracy to Commit an Offense Against the U.S. for Importing Merchandise Contrary to Law by failing to maintain and render for examination, when requested by U.S. government officials, business records pertaining to the importation of produce, in violation of Title 19, U.S. Code, Section 1508; and Title 18, U.S. Code, Sections 371 and 545.

Robert Shipley owned and operated Shipley Sales, a produce import firm located in Nogales, Ariz. Lee Alan Shipley was the export manager of the Mexican growing area S. P.R. de R.I. Legumbrera San Luis in Altamirano, Guerrero, Mexico. The Legumbrera growing area exported produce to Shipley Sales. Robert Shipley also imported produce from the firm S.P.R. de R.I. Los Arroyos, near Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. In June 2001, the defendants could not render Mexican manifests for inspection when asked to do so by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The defendants admitted as part of plea agreements that between May 1, 2001 and May 23, 2001, the defendants, doing business as Shipley Sales, imported produce under the name Los Arroyos knowing that they had not kept Mexican manifests showing the source of the produce.

As part of the plea agreement in the criminal case, Robert A. Shipley forfeited to the United States \$2,779,150.85 in U.S. Currency in CIV-02 -254-TUC-WDB. In November 2002, \$2,779,150.85 in U.S. Currency was included as a forfeiture allegation on the defendants'

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federal indictment under CR 02-1618-TUC-DCB representing proceeds obtained directly or indirectly derived from produce imported by the defendants between April 17 and May 24, 2001.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and by the Office of Criminal Investigations, U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The prosecution was handled by Jane L. Westby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1618-TUC-DCB
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-003

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